

EPA-PNL-234

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To Phil North

cc

bcc

Subject Alaskans Critical of EPA Assessment

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Pebble Update

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Who Does BBNC Speak For?

This is the title of a recent opinion piece published in the [Bristol Bay Times](#) related to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) draft watershed assessment.

Addressing the lack of a year-round economy throughout southwest Alaska, the fact that Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC) employs zero shareholders in the region and that BBNC has only an 8.5 percent shareholder hire rate out of 9,000 shareholders, Iliamna resident, Martha Anelon, questions why shareholders from distant communities are dictating the future of her village.

[Read Anelon's opinion piece...](#)

Frontline Misses

The recently aired Frontline production "Alaska Gold," is a re-edited version of the anti-Pebble film "Red Gold."

What should have been a balanced, authoritative and thought-provoking discussion focusing on the challenges of life in southwest Alaska, missed the mark entirely and fell victim to anti-pebble rhetoric,

The production is riddled with bias, neglects socioeconomic issues of the region including outmigration, high cost of living and school closures, lacks disclosure and in many instances presents known and vocal opponents to the project as objective independent sources.

Further, the program misrepresents the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) draft Bristol Bay watershed assessment and fails to identify the literature review's many flaws. [Read more...](#)

Alaskans Speak Out At EPA Hearing

Holding its first draft Bristol Bay watershed assessment meeting in Seattle at the request of Senator Maria Cantwell, (WA-D), in order to accommodate the schedule of Pacific Northwest fishermen who own more than 50 percent of the drift gill net commercial fishing licenses in Bristol Bay, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) held its second public meeting on the draft assessment in Anchorage earlier this summer.

Several hundred people attended the meeting to testify, expressing their concern with the intrusive actions of the EPA and criticize the agency's nonscientific literature review. Many independent Alaska residents, government officials, business owners and industry representatives testified, stating their opposition to the rushed manner in which the assessment has been conducted. View a sample of the [public testimonies](#) from the Anchorage meeting.

Handy links:

[Alaska Resource Development Council](#)
[Alaska Miners Association](#)
[United States Geological Survey](#)
[Alaska Department of Natural Resources](#)
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